10 August 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

At the request of my colleague, Professor

Bruce Hopper, I am sending you herewith a

revised copy of his article on the Custime

book. I am sure that Professor Hopper will

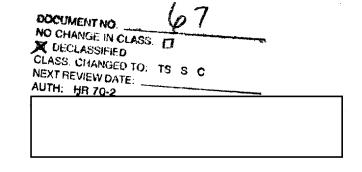
appreciate very much the comments on his earlier

draft which you recently forwarded to him.

WILLIAM L. LANGER Assistant Director National Estimates

25X1

attachment





8 August 1951

Professor Bruce C. Hopper Harvard University Cambridge, Massabhusetts

Dear Professor Hopper:

Your scholarly review of Custine reached me through the kindness of Professor Langer and I found it extremely interesting. I have the impression that you, like myself, found the Marquis something of an enigma. It is really rather difficult to determine where in his character the keen observer begins and the literary charlatan ends.

There exists a review by Balsac of one of Custine's novels in which the great man states, in effect, that only Stendahl equalled Custine in insight. However, in a private letter, also still extent, Balsac hinted that he wrote this enthusiastic review in order to please the Duchess d'Abranthes and as far as he was concerned "anyone who had an income of two hundred thousand florines, as Custine had, was a great artist."

The fact remains, however, that one literally could take excerpts verbatim from his JOURNAL and use them as current commentaries on Soviet Russia. As a matter of fact, when Bullitt was in Moscow as Ambassador he did exactly this and his report, intended as a hoax, was received in good faith by the State Department.

Sincerely,

of W. B. Smith

W. B. Smith

cc: Dr. Langer

ME 16 9 18,